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PATENT
Docket No.: CLV-31174/A
Cust. No. 001095

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Jennifer China 2.3.2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

AJELLO, ET AL.

APPLICATION NO: 09/687,278

FILED: OCTOBER 13, 2000

FOR: DEBLOCKING CONTACT LENSES

EXAMINER:

M. VARGOT

ART UNIT: 1732

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 03, 2003

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

The Restriction/Election Requirement dated September 02, 2002 from Examiner M. Vargot of Art Unit 1732 has been received and reviewed. The following is in response thereto.

ELECTION

Applicants elect the invention of Group I (Claims 1 – 26) drawn to a method and apparatus for extracting a contact lens from a mold for examination.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned.

Please address all correspondence to Novartis Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property, One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080. The

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commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees with may be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Gorman, Jr.
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Novartis Corporation
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

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